

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to report to the House and Senate health and welfare committees on educational services provided within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, relative to the Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for nutrition
5 education; to establish certain reporting requirements for the Department of Children
6 and Family Services; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Subpart A-1 of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:236.1, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 SUBPART A-1. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

11 §236.1. Legislative findings; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
12 educational component; reporting requirements

13 A. The legislature finds and declares the following:

14 (1) The program still commonly known as "food stamps" was renamed the
15 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2008. SNAP is
16 administered at the federal level by the United States Department of Agriculture
17 Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and at the state level by the Louisiana Department
18 of Children and Family Services, hereafter referred to as "department".

1 (2) SNAP is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance programs and
2 provides crucial support to needy households and to those making the transition from
3 welfare to work.

4 (3) By federal policy, SNAP benefits may only be used for the purchase of
5 nonalcoholic beverages and food which is not hot at the point of sale and may not be
6 used to purchase any nonfood items.

7 (4) The population of Louisiana has historically encompassed one of the
8 highest proportions of SNAP recipients in the nation.

9 (5) Federal regulations allow states to administer educational services within
10 the SNAP program. Such services are known as SNAP Education, and are designed
11 to teach food budgeting, proper nutrition, and healthy food choices to SNAP
12 recipients.

13 (6) It is the public policy of this state to support basic health, human welfare,
14 education, and self-sufficiency among its most vulnerable citizens. Effective
15 educational efforts, including nutrition education, are necessary for this state to
16 promote better health and break its historic cycle of generational poverty.

17 B. In addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of
18 the department, the department shall provide printed nutrition education resource
19 materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households. The department
20 may develop or utilize materials at its discretion in order to satisfy the provisions of
21 this Subsection, provided that such materials include the Core Nutrition Messages,
22 or any successor resources, developed by FNS. The department shall provide such
23 materials to every head of a SNAP beneficiary household at the following intervals:

24 (1) At the first issuance of a SNAP electronic benefits transfer card
25 subsequent to the initial determination of eligibility.

26 (2) In the first correspondence from the department subsequent to a
27 redetermination of eligibility.

28 (3) Any interval which the department deems advantageous and feasible.

1 C. The SNAP Education program of this state and all subcontractors and
2 affiliates of such program shall utilize the Core Nutrition Messages, or any successor
3 resources, developed by FNS.

4 D. On or before March first annually, the department shall submit to the
5 House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and
6 Welfare a comprehensive report on the SNAP Education program. The report shall
7 include but not be limited to the following items:

8 (1) Analysis and commentary on major health challenges faced by low-
9 income Louisiana families.

10 (2) Data on SNAP Education participants, including a description of the
11 ideal target population, actual number of participants served, geographic distribution
12 of participants, and participant demographics.

13 (3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of
14 participants, service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education
15 program contractors and subcontractors.

16 (4) Analysis of program outcomes and other significant impacts to SNAP
17 Education service recipients.

18 (5) Public policy recommendations for enhancing the SNAP Education
19 program and for supporting better health and nutrition generally among low-income
20 families of this state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Williams

HB No. 194

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to report to the House and Senate health and welfare committees on educational services provided within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Proposed law provides legislative findings regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is still commonly known as "food stamps"; and the SNAP Education program, which provides nutrition education services to low-income families receiving SNAP benefits.

Proposed law provides that in addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of DCFS, the department shall provide printed nutrition education resource materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households at the following intervals:

- (1) At the first issuance of a SNAP electronic benefits transfer card subsequent to the initial determination of eligibility.
- (2) In the first correspondence from the department subsequent to a redetermination of eligibility.
- (3) Any interval which the department deems advantageous and feasible.

Proposed law provides that DCFS may develop or utilize materials at its discretion in order to satisfy the requirement of proposed law that the agency provide printed nutrition education resource materials to the heads of SNAP beneficiary households.

Proposed law requires DCFS to submit a report on the SNAP Education program to the House and Senate health and welfare committees by March 1 annually, which shall include but not be limited to the following items:

- (1) Analysis and commentary on major health challenges faced by low-income La. families.
- (2) Data on SNAP Education participants, including a description of the ideal target population, actual number of participants served, geographic distribution of participants, and participant demographics.
- (3) A description of program operations, including details on selection of participants, service delivery, and activities conducted by all SNAP Education program contractors and subcontractors.
- (4) Analysis of program outcomes and other significant impacts to SNAP Education service recipients.
- (5) Public policy recommendations for enhancing the SNAP Education program and for supporting better health and nutrition generally among low-income families of this state.

(Adds R.S. 46:236.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Changed language in two Paragraphs of the legislative findings Subsection.
2. Added a requirement that in addition to any SNAP Education services conducted by contractors of DCFS, the department also provide printed nutrition education resource materials directly to the heads of all SNAP beneficiary households at the following intervals:
 - (1) At the first issuance of a SNAP electronic benefits transfer card subsequent to the initial determination of eligibility.
 - (2) In the first correspondence from the department subsequent to a redetermination of eligibility.

- (3) Any interval which the department deems advantageous and feasible.
- 3. Deleted provision that the report on SNAP Education required by proposed law address knowledge gain and behavior change among program participants.
- 4. Made technical change.